

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 26-31 are all the claims pending in the application. This Amendment amends claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 31, cancels claims 1, 9, and 17-25, and addresses each point of rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

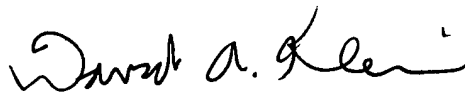
As a preliminary matter, Applicant has made editorial amendments the preambles of claims 11, 12, 27, and 28.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 10, and 26 would be allowable in independent form. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has rewritten each of these claims as an independent claim, amended claims 5-8 to depend from claim 2, amended claims 29-31 to depend from claim 26, and cancelled claims 1, 9, and 17-25. As all pending claims now depend from claims including subject matter indicated as being allowable, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order, and such action is hereby solicited.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees determined to be due with the exception of the issue fee and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4209 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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